



DATE: August 17, 2020

TO: Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

FROM: Department of Real Estate

POSITION: No objection, defer to Department of Recreation and Parks

RE: Council Bill 20-0459, “City Property—Renaming the Columbus Obelisk Monument to the Police Violence Victims Monument”

INTRODUCTION:

The Department of Real Estate is herein reporting on City Council Bill 20-0549 introduced by Councilmembers Dorsey, Henry, Pinkett, Burnett, Sneed & President Scott.

PURPOSE:

Renaming the Columbus Obelisk Monument, located in Heinz Park (Block 4197 Lot 002), to the Police Violence Victims Monument

BRIEF HISTORY:

As stated in the Bill’s recitals, undoing white supremacy requires us to reject historical narratives that serve as its underpinnings, which we know to be false. This includes the heroizing, mythologizing and white washing of some history’s worst actors, from Columbus to the Confederacy, the continuation of which constitutes an act of propaganda. Rather than continue to allow monuments to stand to oppressors. We should honor their memories of the victims who have lost their lives, and create space for those survivors who continue to persevere.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION:

The Department of Real Estate has no objection to Council Bill 20-0549. As with all cases of naming City-owned property, the Department of Real Estate defers to the agency that has primary jurisdiction over the property. In this case, Heinz Park is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Sincerely,

Walter J Horton
Real Estate Officer